

# **James M. VanHook collection**

## **L308**

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July 18, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	VanHook family
<b>Creator</b>	VanHook, James M., 1844-1927
<b>Title</b>	James M. VanHook collection
<b>Date</b>	1796-1907, undated
<b>Extent</b>	0.6 Cubic feet 2 manuscript boxes, 1 medium oversize folder
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

James M. VanHook collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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John Denny was born in Pennsylvania on March 30, 1789. He was at the Battle of Tippecanoe and lived and owned multiple properties in Clark County, Indiana. Denny married his first wife, Sarah Kelly, in Clark County, Indiana Territory on July 18, 1811. He then married Caroline Curtiss Young (1810-1867) on June 27, 1841. Caroline was the sister of Solon Young, the father of Jennie VanHook. Denny died on April 10, 1862.

Joshua Leach was born on August 18, 1818 in Butler County, Ohio to Joshua and Margaret Leach. He married Anna Bake (1820-1901) on September 9, 1838 and they had four children. Leach served as postmaster for the town of Liberty in Union County, Indiana and also served two terms as sheriff of the county. After being appointed the secretary and treasurer of the Cincinnati & Indianapolis Junction Railway, he moved his family to Connersville, Indiana. After working for the railroad for 20 years, Leach resigned his position in 1872 and established a drug store. He also served as Justice of the Peace from 1886 until a few years before his death on February 1, 1908.

### Sources:

Ancestry.com. "Caroline C. Young." *Indiana Marriage Index, 1800-1941*. Accessed May 25, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>.

Ancestry.com. "John Denny." *Indiana Marriage Index, 1800-1941*. Accessed May 25, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>.

FindaGrave.com. "Caroline Curtiss Young Denny." *Find a Grave Index*. Accessed May 25, 2016. <http://www.findagrave.com>.

FindaGrave.com. "John Denny." *Find a Grave Index*. Accessed May 25, 2016. <http://www.findagrave.com>.

FindaGrave.com. "Joshua D. 'Squire' Leach." *Find a Grave Index*. Accessed May 25, 2016. <http://www.findagrave.com>.

*History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches, Vol. 2*, L.A. Williams & Co., 1882. Evansville, IN: Unigraphic, 1966.

"Honored Pioneer is Called Home: Death Comes to Relieve Suffering of Joshua leach." *Connersville Evening News* (IN), February 1, 1908. Accessed May 25, 2016. <http://access.newspaperarchive.com>.

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## Biographical Note

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James M. VanHook was born on March 19, 1844 in Clark County, Indiana to William and Martha VanHook. On July 23, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company D, 4th Indiana Cavalry Regiment to fight for the Union during the U.S. Civil War. VanHook was promoted to full sergeant and mustered out on June 29, 1865. He married Lenora Bellows(1844-1888) on September 9, 1868 and they had three children. In January, 1895, VanHook was put on trial and acquitted for the July 4, 1894 shooting death of Anton Schafer. He married Jennie Young Bean (1854-1926) on August 16, 1900. Jennie was the daughter of Solon Young. VanHook died on March 29, 1927.

#### Sources:

Information found within collection.

Ancestry.com. "James M. VanHook." *Indiana Select Marriages Index, 1748-1993*. Accessed May 24, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/>.

Ancestry.com. "James M. VanHook." *U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*. Accessed May 24, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/>.

Ancestry.com. "Lenora Van Hook." *1880 United States Federal Census*. Accessed May 24, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/>.

Ancestry.com. "Jennie Young Bean." *Indiana Marriage Index, 1800-1941*. Accessed May 24, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/>.

FindaGrave.com. "James M. Vanhook." *Find a Grave Index*. Accessed May 24, 2016. <http://www.findagrave.com/>.

"Crazed With Love: Anton Schafer Meets His Tragic Death." *The Clark County Record*. (Clarkstown, IN). July 7, 1894.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains correspondence and documents compiled by James M. VanHook during his activities with the Freemasons, the Samuel Simonson Post No. 226 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), and the Clark County Historical Society (1783-1917). The collection includes land grants, indentures, and other legal documents from Charlestown and Clark County, Indiana; biographical and historical sketches; historical information about Blazing Star Masonic Lodge and the Charlestown Methodist Episcopal Church; and G.A.R. decoration day program notes and speeches, military history and information about veterans military service and burial locations. Also included are the indentures, account and business documents of John Denny, a resident of Charlestown, Indiana (1811-1867); the VanHook family correspondence and personal documents, including letters sent to James during the Civil War (1837-1905); correspondence and documents regarding James M. VanHook's business interests near Gainesville and Ft. Meade, Florida (1883-1909); and the pocket diaries of Joshua Leach, a financial agent

and secretary for the Cincinnati and Indianapolis Junction Railroad Company, based in Connersville, Fayette County, Indiana. (1854-1866).

Items of note within the collection are a map of Charlestown, Indiana showing original lots (circa 1810s); documents regarding a legal matter involving George Rogers Clark (1802); a copy of the Indiana Territory slavery ordinance of 1802; reminiscences that mention the meaning of "Hoosiers"; reminiscences and biographical sketches about the Pigeon Roost Massacre in September, 1811 and the Cyrus Polk family murders at Henryville, Clark County, Indiana on November 11, 1871; James VanHook's notes regarding men who took part in the Battle of Tippecanoe; correspondence and newsclippings regarding James M. VanHook's murder trial in 1895 for the shooting death of Anton Schafer on July 4, 1894; and a letter to VanHook from S.P. Lee, dated December 2, 1904, from Portland, Oregon that describes the city and the upcoming 1905 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged by subject.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

## **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed 2016/05/26 by Laura Eliason. EAD finding aid created 2016/05/26 by Laura Eliason.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Clark County Historical Society (Ind.).
- Grand Army of the Republic (U.S.).
- United States. Army. Indiana Cavalry Regiment, 4th (1862-1865).

### **Family Name(s)**

- Denny family
- VanHook family

### **Genre(s)**

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Diaries
- Maps
- War diaries

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Charlestown (Ind.)
- Clark County (Ind.)

- Florida
- Portland (Or.)
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Military life
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Veterans

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Clark, George Rogers, 1752-1818
- Denny, John, 1789-1862
- Leach, Joshua, 1818-1908
- VanHook, James M., 1844-1927

### **Subject(s)**

- Freemasons--Indiana
- Land grants
- Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition (1905 : Portland, Or.)
- Methodists
- Military veterans
- Pigeon Roost Massacre, 1812
- Tippecanoe, Battle of, Ind., 1811
- Trials (Murder)
- Trials (Murder)--Indiana
- Veterans--Indiana
- Veterans--Societies, etc.



## Series 1: Charlestown, Indiana materials, 1818-1917, undated

## Collection Inventory

Series 1: Charlestown, Indiana materials, 1818-1917, undated		
	Box	Folder
Charlestown, Indiana documents, 1818-1907, undated	1	1
Charlestown, Indiana Blazing Star Masonic Lodge documents, 1845-1906	1	2
Charlestown Methodist Episcopal Church documents and Methodist historical sketches, 1819-1905, undated	1	3
Samuel Simonson Post no. 226, G.A.R. correspondence and documents, 1892-1908, undated	1	4
John Denny documents, 1811-1867	1	12
Series 2: Clark County, Indiana materials, 1783-1909, undated		
	Box	Folder
Clark County, Indiana documents, 1783-1900, undated	1	5
Clark County, Indiana Historical Society correspondence and documents, 1874-1909, undated	1	6
Clark County, Indiana judicial history documents, undated	1	7

**Series 3: Indiana history, 1802-1900, undated**

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Land grant, Charlestown map, and indentures, 1796-1842

**Series 3: Indiana history, 1802-1900, undated**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
George Rogers Clark legal documents and biographical sketches, 1802, undated	1	8
Battle of Tippecanoe documents, undated	1	9
Biographical sketches and personal narratives, 1899-1900, undated	1	10
Indiana historical sketches, undated	1	11
Indianapolis newspaper clippings, 1832-1835, undated	1	18
<b>Series 4: VanHook family correspondence and documents, 1837-1909, undated</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
VanHook family correspondence and documents, 1837-1905, undated	1	13
James M. VanHook correspondence and news clippings, 1861-1900	1	14
James M. VanHook correspondence and documents, 1874-1907	1	15

**Series 5: Joshua Leach diaries, 1850-1866**

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James M. VanHook correspondence and documents, Florida property, 1883-1909	1	16
James M. VanHook miscellaneous documents, undated	1	17
<b>Series 5: Joshua Leach diaries, 1850-1866</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Joshua Leach pocket diary, 1850-1853	2	1
Joshua Leach pocket diaries, 1854-1855	2	2
Joshua Leach pocket diaries, 1856-1857	2	3
Joshua Leach pocket diary, 1858	2	4
Joshua Leach pocket diary and receipts, 1859-1860	2	5
Joshua Leach pocket diary, 1861	2	6
Joshua Leach pocket diary, 1862	2	7
Joshua Leach pocket diary, 1866	2	8